MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

MCN to receive grant to house homeless veterans

Money, regulations set for end of January

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation is one of five tribes in the state and one of 26 across the nation to receive new funding to assist Native American veterans experiencing homelessness.

U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro announced the effort Jan. 8 during the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes quarterly meeting in Tulsa.

According to a HUD press release, \$5.9 million in total grants will be made to, "offer a permanent home and supportive services to Native American veterans who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness."

MCN is slated for \$216,566 to distribute housing vouchers for eligible veterans.

During the ITC meeting, Castro said the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program would administer the monies. He said the program will coordinate with existing VA offices to provide case management and clinical services.

"An America that's more inclusive and that honors the dignity of all citizens is a nation that's stronger and one that's more secure," Castro said. "Extending the benefits of HUD-VASH to more Native Americans is one way that we build a more inclusive nation. Listening to and learning from Native American leaders is another."

MCN Housing Department Administrative Manager Brent Beaver said the vouchers would cover a one-year period.

He also said Housing will be coordinating with the VA offices in Muskogee and Tulsa to assist with other needed services and management. He estimated Jan. 12 that the money and the accompanying rules might be available by the end of the month.

MCN Secretary of Veterans Affairs Ken Davis is hoping none of the funding is destined for administrative or other

"I want to ensure that every dollar and coin is used for Mvskoke veterans," Davis said.

Davis said he already has a number of veterans that could use the new grants.

MCN entities are in a waiting period until they receive the funding and accompanying regulations.

Creek Nation Eufaula Casino hosts grand reopening

Celebration held for remodel completion

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

EUFAULA, Okla. — The remodeled Creek newly Nation Eufaula Casino players welcomed Muscogee (Creek) Nation officials Jan. 9 for the casino's grand re-opening ceremony.

CNEC General Manager Derek Fife said the facility was in need of a remodel.

"It's just a full interior remodel. We completely gutted both buildings, put in the new décor," Fife said. "It was outdated, completely outdated. This building has been here since 1985."

Fife said the project was planned to take 63 days but finished ahead of schedule.

"The remodel ended up being finished in 24 days due to the hard work from the vendors and the employees and then, help from the sister properties," Fife said.

The remodel incorporated additional seating for the café and newer chairs.

"We have never had enough seating for our café. We always had two tables that had four chairs at each table and customers would say, 'Well, we are not going to come and eat if you are not going to give us a place to sit down and eat," Fife said.

Promotions Manager Leroy Harjo said the staff enjoyed the remodel but that he believes the players will enjoy it more.

"I mean we see them day in and day out every day and we're just glad we give them a place to really come to now," Harjo said.

CNEC partnered with Player Performance Group, a company that marketing and promotions services for gaming, to offer a new promotion for the casino reveal.

PPG President and

Re-opening - 3



Jessica McBride/MNN

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation created Onefire Holding Company LLC is a minority investor in the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue, the first of which is set to open in spring 2016 at the MCN-owned RiverWalk Complex in Jenks, Okla.

FlyingTee scheduled to open spring 2016

MCN to benefit as landlord, investor

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

JENKS, Okla. — Sometimes seen as a game for the elite, the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue at the RiverWalk Complex in Jenks will put clubs in the hands of anyone willing to take a swing.

According to the FlyingTee website, the venue will aim to put a new spin on the sport by combining golf and food for family outings, work parties or date night. It will also offer golf lessons, camps, birthday parties

and events.

Construction on the project began in April 2015 and FlyingTee is expected to open in spring 2016.

The venue differs from its main competitor, TopGolf with technology and golf games.

The 53,000 square foot, threelevel facility will incorporate 60 bay areas for up to six people to swing into a netted field of targets, and play four different golf games such as PIG, 21, darts or long-drive.

In September 2015, Flying-Tee announced a partnership with Protracer, a software technology company that provides

real-time golf ball tracking for televised golf tournaments and driving ranges.

Instead of having microchipped golf balls, golfers will be able to hit real golf balls and track their ball with 3D sensors. Customers will be able track their ball speed, velocity, spin and trajectory from inside their

The bays are climate controlled so that the facility can be open during any season.

Golfers that dream of teeing off at Professional Golf Asso-

Onefire to open CNG station in Glenpool

FlyingTee - 4

Emvpanayv: One who tells the story

'Y'All Queada,' fake Nez Perce, actor's speech, new MCN chief

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An armed 'militia' in Oregon declared that they want to return the federally-owned Malhuer National Wildlife Refuge to its owners 'we the people.' The group came to Oregon in support of some ranchers who were convicted of arson in a federal court and to protest federal land use policies and management,

The AR-15 totin' protesters say they'll want a plan to return the federal lands to the public — meaning area ranchers, they said. The local folks say, 'go home.' Facebook posts have called them, 'Y'all Queada,' 'Yokel Harum' and 'Vanilla Issus.'

What they fail to take into consideration is that the land belonged to the Northern Paiute people. Burns-Paiute Tribal Chair Charlotte Rodrique said in an interview with 'National Public Radio' that the tribe was the original owner and laughed that she was composing a letter of acceptance.

Did you happen to see the Rose Bowl parade and notice the Appaloosa Horse Club wearing simulated Nez Perce regalia? Well, 'Indian

Emvpanayv - 6



\$1 million in revenue projected for first year

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

JENKS, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed TR 15-208 dur-

ing the Nov. 21, 2015 regular session authorizing the construction and operation of a

fuel and compressed natural gas station on tribal-owned land in Glenpool.

The Council also passed TR 15-213, allowing Onefire Holding Company LLC to construct and operate the station.

Onefire CEO Mike Payne said that the station will provide gas and CNG fuels to the general public and the Nation.

"CNG, as I'm sure you know,

is an increasingly used transportation fuel and it's a clean fuel. It's less expensive, even in today's environment when gas prices are down, it's still cheaper," Payne said. "So there's a lot of opportunity with CNG and it's growing. There's also state tax credits that help make those investments in the infrastructure to provide CNG."

According to www.altfuelprices.com, CNG prices in Tulsa range from \$0.95-1.69 per gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE). There are around 10 CNG stations in the Tulsa area and one in Okmulgee.

Several tribes throughout Indian Country are making the conversion to CNG vehicles or operate CNG stations.

Chickasaw Nation opened its first public CNG station in 2010. The tribe also announced an agreement in 2014 with the State of Oklahoma to convert their fleet to CNG

CNG - 2

BIA officers to be provided overdose prevention drug



White House Director of National Drug Control Policy, Michael Botticelli announces during a Dec. 16, 2015 press conference at the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa, Okla., that the Indian Health Service will provide Bureau of Indian Affairs police officers with the overdose prevention drug

Lighthorse to inquire about Naloxone

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

TULSA, Okla. — A press conference was held Dec. 16, 2016 at the Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa to announce an agreement to equip Bureau of Indian Affairs police officers with a drug called Naloxone.

Naloxone, which is also called Narcan, is a drug that will be used to prevent overdoses from opioids such as hydrocodone, oxycodone and heroin.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, Naloxone works by neutralizing opioids in the body and increasing breathing.

It only works if a person has opioids in their system. The medication will not work on other drugs.

Indian Health Services Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Susan Karol, announced that 91 IHS facilities across the country will dispense Naloxone to BIA officers. The officers will be trained in correctly identifying an overdose and applying the proper dose of Naloxone to treat these instances.

"IHS will also provide the support to BIA officers in safely and effectively handling the medication," Karol said.

Karol said the drug will be dispensed in 2016 and will be covered by IHS.

The Director of National Drug Control Policy at the White House, Michael Botticelli, led the conference.

"We are here today to discuss concrete steps we can take to reduce the opioids epidemic," Botticelli said.

According to an IHS press release, the initiative began in October 2015 through an effort by President Obama to address drug abuse and the

heroin epidemic.

"While the administration is focusing on doing what we can to tackle this epidemic, we know that we can't do it alone," Botticelli said. "Many of the answers to these issues come from local efforts."

Botticelli said he was pleased that the State of Oklahoma has expanded prevention efforts.

"We are here today to build on the work already being done and to help reduce drug overdose deaths in Oklahoma and among American Indian and Alaskan Natives," Botticelli said.

According to an article in 'The Daily Oklahoman,' Naloxone kits were given to officers of the Tulsa Police Department to help with this as well. These kits are starting to spread throughout the Oklahoma police departments and now the focus is on the BIA tribal offi-

"This type of help between public health and public safety is exactly what we need," Botticelli said.

Deputy Associate Director of Field Operations for the BIA, Charles Addington said active and cadet officers would undergo training with Naloxone.

"The training course will approximately be eight hours and we will start training in 2016," Addington said.

MCN Lighthorse Tribal Police Chief Robert Hawkins has seen the Naloxone administered and is pleased at what it can do and how it can help save lives.

"I have seen it used on someone who had an overdose and it is very effective," Hawkins

Hawkins is looking into getting the kits and training for LTPD.

"We know there is training that we will have to take and we are hoping to get started on that in the near future." he said.



Darren DeLaune/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse K-9 Unit Police Officers Chad Morris (left) and Patrick Williams (right) go through bite training Dec. 15, 2015 in Eufaula, Okla., with Officer Zero who belongs to Morris.

Lighthorse K-9s put 'bite' on crime

Tribal police introduce unit to citizens

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

EUFAULA, Okla. - Bleck, Zero and Donja. Do those names ring a bell? They sound like names off of the old game show 'American Gladiators' don't they?

However, these are the names of dogs with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Department K-9 Unit.

The unit, which involves a canine accompanied by a handler, provides protection for officers as well as pedestrians and is also used to detect narcotics.

"If there is a reasonable suspicion to do a free air sniff of a vehicle or a certain area, then a K-9 officer will be there to assist the other officers," K-9 Officer Don Feather said.

Most of the dogs are imported breeds such as German Shepherds and Belgian Malinois.

"It depends on what the department is looking for and what the handler is looking for in a dog," K-9 Officer Patrick Williams said. "If they want a handler protection dog, chances are they will go with a Shepherd or Malinois."

The dogs with LTPD are dual purpose, meaning they can sniff for narcotics as well as article recovery and track and apprehension. Article recovery means they can search for human odor.

Williams said narcotics trafficking is cause for concern because major U.S. Highways run through and intersect within the State of Oklahoma and MCN ju-

"We have a good size jurisdiction that our department covers," Williams said.

The handlers have to meet a minimum of 16 hours of state and federal required training for their canines.

"This is to keep the dog credible in our court system," Williams said. "So our dog has to be properly trained and we have to document the training."

Williams said the LTPD officers feel the need for constant training and the majority of this consists of real life scenario mock-ups.

"You have to continuously train your dog and maintain him," Williams said. "Because every handler I know, they want their dog to outdo the other canine."

K-9 Officer Chad Morris further explained the reasoning for

"They are intense for everyone of us because we are a team. With the tasks that our dogs go through, we put them through anything because we have to make sure that with the situations that we may face, the dog always wins," Morris said.

Morris said the dogs accompany them to their homes where training continues off-duty.

"This is a 24-7, 365 days job," Morris said. "I know we all do little things at our house for our dogs. Each one of these dogs, to the handlers, is a family member."

Both the officers and canines also attend school together.

"When I take Bleck to a school, he knows the difference," laughed Williams. "He knows when we are training and we have to do certain things it is time for work but when we go to school functions, he also knows that it is time to be nice."

"We really believe it to be a different market," Payne said. "This is not a convenience store type set up, this is like a fast fill."

The station will be built at the northeast corner of Hwy. 75 and 181st Street. The 19.6 acres of property was purchased by MCN in 2002.

In 2013, the Council passed NCA 13-267 appropriating \$2.5 million for two CNG stations to be placed on tribal-owned prop-

According to the recently

CNG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and in return, received a more beneficial tax rate for their tobacco compact.

The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma announced the conversion of CNG transit vehicles in early 2015. The project was funded by a grant.

Payne said that the Onefire CNG station will be open within the next 30-45 days. Onefire has projected \$1 million in revenue for the first year the station is open.

"I would love to see us ex-

pand CNG filling stations. Nation Business Enterprises. There's some tribes around the country that have done very, very well with CNG filling stations," Payne said. "And I think as we prove this first one, then we would absolutely be looking at opportunities throughout the Creek Nation, but we've also talked to other tribes in Oklahoma that are interested in us maybe coming to their territories as well."

Payne said that the revenue from the station will be split between MCN and Onefire.

He said that this project will not be competing with the travel plazas operated by Muscogee

erty.

passed legislation, a portion of these funds will be utilized for the upcoming facility.

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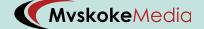
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Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Creek Nation Eufaula Casino celebrated the first remodel of the facility and office space in nine years Jan. 9 onsite in Eufaula, Okla.

RE-OPENING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Cherokee Nation citizen Chris Province said the idea was to reintroduce the property to patrons.

CNEC mailed out scratch cards to anyone with a player's club card who has been to the casino in the last three years. The cards were worth at least \$10.

experience. I know what the service level and the quality of staff that Derek operates here, they are going to have that," Province said.

Province said the promotion will continue every Saturday in January and the casino will launch new promotions in February.

Fife alluded to the funding source for the project during the event.

"We started this remodel

It's just a full interior remodel. We completely gutted both buildings, put in the new décor...It was outdated, completely outdated."

- CNEC **General Manager Derek Fife**

"Somewhere out there is a \$5,000 scratch card winner. If they come in and show up great and if not, all their scratch cards go into a hopper, floor hopper, at the end of the night, at 10 o'clock we will draw for a \$5,000 winner," Harjo said.

Province said the promotion was about giving players a new experience.

"When they walk in now, they are going to get a different project about eight years ago," he said. "After we did the other one and we started saving money and it has taken awhile to get it done. But once we found the right company, we started negotiations."

The 'Muscogee Nation News' sent several inquiries regarding the source and project cost to Fife the week of Jan. 11 and did not receive a response as of press time.

Speed reduced at Highway 75 and Preston intersection



Darren DeLaune/MNN

A speed reduction was implemented Dec. 10, 2015 on the portion of Hwy. 75 that intersects with Preston, Okla., changing the limit from 65 to 55 mph.

Nation involved in safety project

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A speed reduction was implemented Dec. 10, 2015 on the portion of Hwy. 75 that intersects with Preston, changing the limit from 65 to 55 mph.

Flashing lights and a speed indicator accompanied the change so drivers can moderate their speed accordingly.

Oklahoma District 1 Transportation Commissioner, John Fidler said the change was made to enhance safety.

"Too many accidents there," Fidler said. "It is such a treacherous part the way the road is built there coming from the south and north bound."

Former Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger said his administration took initiative when two people lost their lives in a collision at

the intersection.

"Unfortunately, there was an accident that took the lives of people that I knew and ironically, from Bristow," Tiger said. "There have been incidents in the past at the intersection and I felt that something needed to

Tiger said that he talked to Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation Gary Ridley about what could be done at the inter-

"We started looking at how we can improve or diffuse some of the accidents at that part of the highway," Tiger said.

Fidler said he believes the change will help alleviate problems.

"This is going to help traffic and make it safe for the drivers," he said.

Fidler said the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has a plan to make a j-turn at the intersection in 2017.

According to the Missouri

Department of Transportation website, 'a j-turn is an alternative to traditional roadway intersections on a four-lane highway.

'Instead of motorists crossing fast-moving lanes of traffic to get to the opposing lanes, drivers at a j-turn intersection turn right in the same direction of traffic. merge into the left lane and then make a left turn in the direction they intend to travel.

"Installing the J-turn should add additional safety for the motorists at the intersection," Fidler

MCN Department of Education and Training Career Specialist Kimberly Martel drives by the Preston intersection on her way to and from work each

"This is not only benefiting me but everyone who commutes through that area," Martel said. "There are people who travel there at a high rate of speed so this should help drivers to be more cautious on their drive."



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions. \$100/day will be provided to those who complete each testing day (\$200 total), or \$10/hour if the testing day is not completed.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

> For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys

or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting a University of Tulsa and Cherokee Nation IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators: Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow



Red Stick Warriors Association promotes Mvskoke language, culture

Classes become nonprofit organization

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A personal interest in learning the Mvskoke language has grown into a nonprofit organization with a mission to save the Mvskoke language and culture.

Red Stick Warriors Association Co-founder and Seminole Nation citizen David Frank said the journey started with the 'Mvskoke Word of the Day' Facebook group.

Frank posted an invitation to the group's page to study the Mvskoke language at his home.

"I just thought hey maybe five or six people that live in the [Oklahoma] City area might want to come over," he said. "Not necessarily have a teacher, but just share what we know and just help each other study."

Enough people expressed interest that Frank rented a location and acquired a teacher.

"I think the smallest class we have had was 15 people and the largest class was 35," he said.

Frank credits Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jeremy Fultz for taking the classes to the next level.

"Eventually, I probably would have recorded the class but I never would have live streamed it," he said. "He is just real savvy about those kind of things."

Together, they founded the Red Stick Warriors Association, named for the Upper Creek warriors who fought against encroachment on both tribal lands and the traditional way of life. "We want people to know that the Red Stick warrior's spirit didn't die at Horseshoe Bend and we want to carry that on for them," he said. "We are in a different kind of fight now and that is preserve our language and our culture."

RSWA launched a website where they made past language classes available along with editorial segments and pertinent tribal information.

All of the information is free to access.

Frank said he felt this was a positive way to give back to the community.

Frank said some of RSWA videos may touch on controversial issues, but they are not pushing an agenda.

"We want to make sure we stay neutral and we know somewhere along the way there may be some touchy issues like the interview we had with Marilyn Dan of the Five Civilized Tribes Freedmen Association," he said.

Frank said they want to present information and let people decide how to feel.

He said RSWA has several projects planned for the future. One of those plans is a set of language DVDs.

"You can see two people having a conversation in your home with subtitles and watch as a family and pick up on it and replay it and learn it," Frank said.

Other discussed projects include story and hymn CDs and a Mvskoke language class in the Tulsa area.

For more information about RSWA, visit: www.redstick-warriors.com.



Jessica McBride/MNN

Construction crews work on the FlyingTee golf entertainment venue next to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation-owned RiverWalk business development in Jenks, Okla.

FLYINGTEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ciation courses, or playing at the historical course at St. Andrews, Scotland can feel like a pro without leaving the Tulsa area. Screens in each bay offer views of 18 courses and realtime weather conditions as you play the chosen course.

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council passed NCA 14-213 on Dec. 20, 2014, appropriating \$11.6 million to Onefire Holding Company for the purpose of constructing FlyingTee.

RW Restaurant Development provided the remaining funds for the \$22 million project.

The concept was a vision brought to life by Oklahomans John Vollbrecht, Ryan Tawwater and James Vollbrecht.

"... working with Onefire, they talked to us as well about being an anchor tenant to redevelop this area, and as we looked more into what this area could become over time, we just thought it was a great fit and went from there," John Vollbrecht said.

Onefire CEO Mike Payne said that there is a two-part relationship between MCN and FlyingTee, as landlord/tenant and as an investor.

FlyingTee has signed a 25-year lease for the occupation of the site at RiverWalk.

"Onefire, as an investment firm, has purchased an interest in FlyingTee outside of just this building," Payne said. "So, as they continue to grow, as they continue to have opportunities both throughout the United States and internationally, then we will participate in all of that growth as a minority owner of the FlyingTee."

Payne said that part of the investment included a seat at the board for FlyingTee in order to be a part of the business decision-making process.

In September 2015, FlyingTee announced the Milstein family as a company investor. The family's portfolio includes golf investments such as Nicklaus Companies and GolfLogix.

The Milstein family also holds a FlyingTee license and

plans to bring the venue to the Asian market.

FlyingTee expects to employ 110-150 people from entry to executive level positions at the RiverWalk location after the construction phase is complete.

"We encourage any and all Creek citizens interested in employment to hit that website (FlyingTee) and apply to those jobs," Payne said.

Golfers will be able to take a glance to the east across the Arkansas River from any level of the facility and see the Margaritaville-themed expansion of the River Spirit Casino.

"We look at ourselves as an amenity to the resort that the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is building... So when people want to stay for the weekend or bring their families for the weekend, they have a place they can come and have an entertainment venue outside of what's just in the casino hotel," John Vollbrecht said.

Each level of the venue will provide a different dining experience such as a sports bar, rotisserie or rooftop bar.

"It's all about the entire entertainment experience. It's not just the golf or just the food and beverage, it's how we tie each of those together and how we create different experiences depending on what each customer is looking for," Tawwater said.

Pricing for golf depends on the time and day of the week. Bay pricing will also differ from that of the dining settings.

For more information on FlyingTee including available positions visit: www.flying-teegolf.com.





Courtesy Photo

Mvskoke Media staff participated in The Escape Games: Trapped in a Room with a Zombie team building exercise Dec. 8, 2015 offered through a business in Tulsa, Okla., founded by Muscogee (Creek) citizen Carla Colbert and her husband Terry Colbert, who is pictured as the zombie.

Zombie-based business offers team-building skills

Citizen helps bring unique concept to Tulsa

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Carla Colbert and her husband Terry Colbert are bringing a unique team building activity for organizations and businesses to Tulsa.

What started out as a usual day coming home from work for Terry, soon turned into a murder mystery game when his daughter questioned him about a murder.

Turns out she was just playing a game with her brother, which inspired Terry to start writing games with different clues, puzzles and scenarios.

Terry shared the idea of the games with others and soon got a phone call about a similar game being played on an episode of 'The Big Bang Theory.'

"I got ahold of 'The Big Bang Theory' and asked them about the guy who wrote the episode," Terry said. "I flew to Ohio and met with him. We compared notes. Came back here to Tulsa and opened this up."

The Colberts opened The Escape Games: Trapped in a Room with a Zombie July 31, 2015. ery individue 60 minutes. One sessi

"It's been great. Companies book us as team builders. We've seen ONG, McDonalds Corporation, U.S. Cellular," Terry said. "A lot of Fortune 500 companies."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mvskoke Media Department had the opportunity to take part in the challenge.

"The corporate team building is a big deal. Also, it's kind of the highlight of what we're trying to do is to get business to bring their folks and to see who's the leader and who's the supporter,"

Carla said. "What kind of roles they play in their business? That can always show up in situations like this."

'Muscogee Nation News' Editor Sterling Cosper spoke about his experience of being trapped in room with a zombie and his co-workers.

"It was truly a unique experience and I think what's really special about it is, it's not your typical corporate team building experience, which I think is the angle they were going for," Cosper said.

Ten Mvskoke Media staff members had 60 minutes to work together to find the clues, solve the puzzles, unlock the door and escape the room.

"We're all one department, right? But we have different subsidiaries here at Mvskoke Media and a lot of our staff members don't deal with one another on a day-to-day basis," Cosper said. "Nonetheless, that doesn't downplay the importance of getting to know one another better."

Along with the pressure of trying to solve clues, a zombie is chained to a wall and the chain is released one foot every five minutes, allowing it to reach every individual in the room after 60 minutes.

One session can accommodate up to 12 participants and reservations can be made one month in advance.

Private sessions can also be scheduled if groups want to purchase all of their tickets at one time.

The Escape Games are located at: 4960-C S. 83rd E. Ave in Tulsa.

Show dates and times are available online at: www.ican-getout.com and the company Facebook page can be viewed at: www.facebook.com/trappedina roomwithazombietulsa/?fref=ts.

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Mvskoke Youth Services Program holds fun day

Event held to encourage participation

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Myskoke Nation Youth Services Program held the inaugural Myskoke Youth Fun Day Dec. 12, 2015 at the Myskoke Dome in Okmulgee, to encourage youth participation in the tribal communities.

"We have young people, Muscogee (Creek) citizens and some other Native Youth from the communities in the jurisdiction out to just have a lot of fun; participate in activities, some old school and engage with each other," MNYS Director Nancy Mason said.

The mission of MNYS is, 'to empower Mvskoke youth by connecting to culture, community and resources.'

Representatives from the KISS Institute for Practical Robotics were on hand to encourage participation in the MCN Junior Botball Challenge along with representatives from the MCN Behavioral Health Program.

"We've partnered with the behavioral health program to try to highlight some of the things they're doing around bullying prevention, substance

abuse prevention and all the other programs within the Nation that help our young people," Mason said.

The event featured activities such as: tug-of-war, a scavenger hunt, basketball, volleyball, stickball, arts and crafts, dancing, karaoke and many others.

"We wanted to do an event for the youth council because they've been going really well this year to try to recruit more



Rachel Sourjohn/Courtesy

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Services Program held the inaugural Mvskoke Youth Fun Day Dec. 12, 2015 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee, Okla., to encourage youth participation in the tribal communities.

people to be involved," Mason said.

The Mvskoke Nation Youth Council mission statement is, 'to empower Mvskoke Youth by listening and taking action, to enhance their voice by promoting

It's just to have fun... It's just getting to meet people and know that there are peers and people out there that may need help."

— Mvskoke Nation Youth Council Speaker Jay Fife

positive change and informed decisions and to affect all generations and sustain the way of life.'

life.'
Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jay
Fife is a 16-year-old sophomore
at Preston High School who
serves as the second speaker for

committees under MNYC.

"Our goal was to mimic the National Council," Fife said.

Fife shared his thoughts about the event.

"It's just to have fun... It's just getting to meet people and know that there

are peers and people out there that may need help," Fife said. "It's kind of a connecting event."

Muscogee (Creek) citizens ages 12-24 are eligible to participate.

For more information, call Mason at: 918-549-2557 or visit: www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov/Pages/YouthServices/YouthServices.html.

Visit MNYS on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Mvs-kokeYouth/ or on Twitter @ MvskokeYouth.



DeLaune's Corner: The word for today: 'Inspiration'



MNN File Photo

Finding and sharing with the world

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Ladies and Gentlemen, my readers, you have no idea how much I have missed you.

I know, I know, it is my fault. The only way to reach you is through my column and without taking anymore of your time, let's get to it.

Do you remember the 'Sesame Street' letter of the day? Well I'm propos-

day, inspiration.

What does the word mean?

My friend, Web-

ster (Dictionary), defines it as something that makes someone want to do something or that gives someone an idea about what to do or create: a force or influence that inspires someone.

From my other columns, a lot of you know that along with working with my daughter with her hobbies and sports, I am involved with a lot of other stuff. I am a professional boxer and I also help other boxers. I am into fitness, exercising, soccer, bachata and salsa dancing.

They are all very fun but

stressful at times to balance. But the overall point is that I was inspired to do them. With my daughter, I was forced to help her...kidding! She threatened

me so I had to oblige (laugh). The point I am trying to make is that inspiration is something that you can get but a majority of the time, it is something that you can give. Stick with me now.

The second part of the Webster definition is, 'a force or influence that inspires someone.'

What I want you to do is be that force. Be that inspiration.

'I'm possible!' " Award winning actress Audrey Hepburn

> Be that change that someone might need but does not know

how to get to it. You can volunteer, advise, challenge, change, care, take a stand and my favorite, listen. If you have to be that push, be that push. When you are confident in yourself, go and help build that confidence in another.

Whatever it is, however you do it, inspire that person to be better than what they were a year, month, week or even hours

You can see a person light up and their day becomes so much better by doing this. It only takes a few minutes but those few minutes can have amazing effects.

Trust me, it is a wonderful feeling seeing that person that you talked to do something positive, anything positive to making themselves a better person.

Now my favorite part, quote

My first quote is from award winning actress, Audrey Hep-

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible!' " Another great quote.

"I want to inspire people. I want someone to look at me and say, 'because of you, I didn't give up.' " - Unknown

You know what, I feel like throwing in a Bible verse also.

'For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.' - Jeremiah 29:11

My daughter is my inspiration. Listening to her and hearing what she wants to do and accomplish in her life keeps me going because I want to see her

I have one other person that

I will not name speing a word for toing a word fo been and still is a big inspiration to me. I listened to her talk and tell me how

she was a shell of herself for a

Something pushed to make her better not only for herself, but for her family and friends. Now all I see is a smile and goal to become better than she was the day before.

These two, are my main inspirations. Who are yours? More importantly, the big question is, who will you be an inspiration for?

Much love and I missed you all very much. Happy 2016! Let's inspire and make this year ours!

EMVPANAYV

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Country Today' reported that the club did not have permission or endorsement from the Nez Perce to do so.

One club member said the group wanted to honor the Nez Perce for their role in breeding and refining the Appaloosa. Maybe, they should have asked the tribe first?

If they were fake Indians, maybe they should have made fake Appaloosas too? White horses and a couple of buckets of paint might do the trick.

Did you catch actor Leonardo DiCaprio's acceptance speech at the Golden Globe awards this

He got the top honor for Best Actor for his performance in the historical drama, 'The Revenant.' After naming a lengthy list of people, DiCaprio squeezed in a thanks to the Native people who are part of the film.

"Lastly, I want to share this award with all the First Nations people represented in this film and all the indigenous communities around the world. It is time that we recognize your history and that we protect your indigenous lands from corporate interests and people that are out there to exploit them. It is time that we heard your voice and protected this planet for future generations," said DiCaprio.

On his website, he wrote: 'There has never been a more critical time to listen to indigenous voices.'

DiCaprio's mention probably not going to change the world but at least some attention was paid.

Thanks anyway man, nicely spoken. I believe the last time something like this was heard

was in 1973, when Sacheen Littlefeather came on stage and declined the Oscar on behalf of Marlon Brando.

Interesting activity from the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council lately. A recent representative was former censured and fined for behaviors that were out of line against another representative.

It's good for our citizens to know that their legislature will take action like that when necessary. How about some final actions stemming from the forensic audit?

Well, the political contest is over and new leader has been installed for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. James Floyd has the job of principal chief.

Floyd is settling into office and adjusting the Executive Branch. Heard that he's changed the names of different executive sections from 'Department' to 'Services.' Nice move.

During a Jan. 20 interview on 'Mvskoke Radio,' Floyd was quite candid in answering all the questions tossed at him. He shared his plans for a number of changes to benefit citizens.

Those include putting tribal staff back on the time clock to check in for work and take breaks. That should prevent abuses and help citizens by having someone there to answer phone questions and help Mvskokvlke when they come to tribal offices.

There will be changes to come and we wish the best for his administration and the MCN. One thing he said was that his administration will be answering tough questions and inquiries from Mvskoke Media. That will make life a lot easier for this crew. Mvto!

Hvtvm Cehecares—I'll see you again.

Coming and Going with Joy Harjo

Joy Harjo/Muscogee (Creek) citizen

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Hensci! My column 'Coming and Going' is starting up again after many requests and a lag time of a few years.

It's been three years since I've moved home, and to be home with my people is a sweet spot in my life, even as we continue to struggle with family violence and other remnants of historical and personal trauma.

Since I've been home, I've gotten married, returned to my family grounds and now take care of a circle of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren that has expanded at least twice the size I had before marriage. That is the best. Love expands without limit.

I am still traveling out and around in Indian Country and beyond, hearing stories from all over. Please feel free to contact me with story ideas, people to interview and anything else you think might be of interest to the readers of the paper.

Try joyharjosapulpa@gmail. com. Have a great new year and let's resolve to listen to each other, no matter politics or belief system.

Now, here we go:

What a day, the most incredible sunrise. Drove to Okmulgee to witness the inauguration of the new chief, James R Floyd. He gave a tight inspirational speech and I felt a spirit of vnoketcky (love) moving through the people. We all have to work together--there is no other choice. And we need leaders who understand this. We are all in service.

During the ceremonies, Wotko Long was called to the stage

to sing. His singing has a soulful resonance that comes down through many generations of Mvskoke people. I could hear his father, and his father.... Be fore Wotko Long sang, he mentioned the passing of so many of our citizens this season. It's true. Every few days we've had memorials.

He mentioned that Stephanie Berryhill had passed and that her services were at 2 p.m. in Henryetta. She had fought cancer for quite some time and we all knew she would be leaving here sooner than later. But it was too soon and we didn't want her

She is one of those citizens who gave so much to her family, her community, to all of us. I first met her when she worked at the MCN Communications Department. She always welcomed me when I'd come wandering in from being far away. People at home can be suspicious of those of us who leave home and live away for whatever length of time.

We always had very intense talks about our families, our people and what we wanted to do to help. And lots of laughter. We grew a friendship.

Tonight I am in my room writing because I have to put the grief somewhere.

There is the fresh grief felt by those who of us who knew the beloved person we put to rest today, and the collective grief of the Nation from our forced walk from our homelands to this place where we have made a home together.

I went out for a moment and breathed the light of stars. We will all make it. Together.

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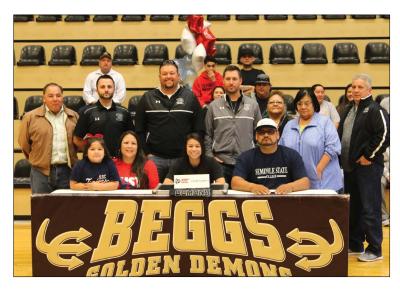
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Darren DeLaune/MNN

"It has been crazy," she said.

Taiah's mom, Melissa Sand-

ers has been waiting for this

day. Like Taiah, she under-

stood what it took to get to

this point and knows that her

daughter is ready for what next

"This is amazing because

a lot of sacrifices were made

from her to get to this point,"

Melissa said. "I can't wait. She

done great at this level and I

know she is going to do great

SSC is a junior college so

After finishing her time at

SSC, Taiah wants to go some-

Taiah will only be attending for

"It has been non-stop, but I am

loving it a lot."

season will bring.

at the next level."

two years.

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Taiah Sanders, pictured with her family and coaches, signs a letter of intent Jan. 15 at Beggs High School to play softball at Seminole State College.

Citizen signs with Seminole State College

Sanders ready for next level, challenge

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

BEGGS, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Taiah Sanders has always been a hard worker when it comes to softball. Ever since she began playing, Taiah wanted to do all she could each day to be better.

"I loved this sport my whole life," she said. "I told myself if I worked hard and improved, it is going to pay off for me."

The improvements paid off when Taiah signed Jan. 15 with Seminole State College at her high school.

Taiah explained her reasons for going to SSC.

"It was the coaching staff where that is going to help with at Seminole State," she said. her major. "They sold me on everything "I want to mamade me feel a n d jor in optompart of the like a etry, so that is team something ready. will look I love at down the enthe road vironment and when it but it was the coachis time," she said. ing staff that did it for 'Until then, my me and made me feel at school is Semihome." nole State and I will

I loved this sport my whole life...I told myself if I worked hard and improved it is going to pay off for me."

Seminole State College signee
 Taiah Sanders

Taiah mentioned that she had other offers from colleges within Oklahoma and out of state, but SSC was her best choice. She also did not want to be far from family.

Taiah played shortstop for the Beggs Lady Demons during her high school career. The coaches at SSC wanted to try her out at the same position in college but felt another would be a better fit.

"They tried me out at shortstop and at second base," she said. "They loved me in the outfield because of my speed so I feel that I will be playing there."

She said if she had the choice, shortstop and playing in the outfield are where she wants to be.

"That is why I feel I am a good fit for this team," Taiah said. "Those were my top two choices and it is the same with my new coaches."

Taiah said after all these years playing, culminating with her signing at SSC has been a whirlwind for her but she has enjoyed every second of it.

be focusing on my work there and helping my team."

Taiah's high school coach, Ryan Swallow said that SSC is getting a gem with Taiah and knows the Beggs Lady Demons will be missing her next

"This is the most rewarding for a coach to see his players get to that next level," Swallow said. "We are going to miss her presence and her everyday leader qualities."

Taiah knows that next season will bring stronger competition so she knows not to get complacent.

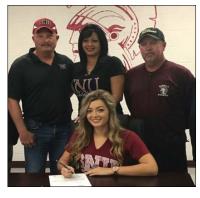
She said she will constantly practice her craft and get better day-by-day.

"Like always, I will be working on my hitting and fielding," Taiah said. "I know the coaches will be instructing me on what else I need to do, but you cannot leave out your basic fundamentals. They are what helped me get to this point."

Taiah's parents are Virgil and Melissa Sanders.

She is of the Hotvle (Wind) Clan and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

Citizen signs letter of intent



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Heidi Stafford signed a letter of intent Nov. 11, 2015 to play golf for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Okla.

Stafford shares how sport influenced her education

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Heidi Stafford signed a letter of intent Nov. 11, 2015 at Eufaula High School to play collegiate level golf for Southern Nazarene University in Bethany.

Stafford is an 18-year-old senior who found her passion for playing golf at a young age.

Stafford started playing golf

for her school in the seventh grade and knew it could possibly lead her to an athletic scholarship.

"My dad played golf his whole life... Me and my best friend just decided to play together because we knew we could go to college for it," she said.

As a freshman, Stafford helped the Lady Ironheads win a Class 3A State Championship and was state runner up her sophomore and junior years. She also won three Heartland Conference titles.

"Never give up, even whenever it gets hard. I've personally felt like giving up before because it gets really hard but you can't. That's what makes you better," Stafford said.

Individually, Strafford is threetime All-Heartland Conference, a three-time All-Region honoree and placed fifth at the state championship her junior year.

"My personal best score was a 71," Stafford said.

While in high school, Stafford has also been involved in basketball, and is a member of the Na-

tional Honor Society and Family Career and Community Leaders of America

of America.

After graduation Stafford plans to get ready for the changes college life brings. She plans

to major in psychology.

"I'm wanting to be a psychologist. People kind of interest me the way they do the things they do. I want to help people," Stafford said.

She looks to her parents for guidance and support.

"They have been working hard their whole lives. I've been pretty blessed to have received the scholarship that I did," Stafford said. "I'm doing it for myself but I also want to do if for them to pay them back for motivating me and pushing me to be the best I can be."

Stafford shares how it made her feel knowing that she had finally achieved one of her goals.

"It makes me feel really accomplished because I've been working really hard since the seventh grade. I've always looked up to college golfers so I've really reached my goal," Stafford said.

Stafford is the daughter of Mike and Katie Stafford.

Citizen named Mr. Indian OU



Submission

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Turner Hunt was chosen to be a banner carrier for the University of Oklahoma Fall 2015 Arts and Sciences Convocation Dec. 18, 2015 in Norman, Okla.

Hunt discusses academic, military and state legislature background

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Turner Hunt was chosen to be the banner carrier for the University of Oklahoma anthropology department during the Fall 2015 Arts and Sciences Convocation Dec. 18, 2015 at the Lloyd Nobel Center in Norman.

"Each department basically picks amongst the graduates out one of their people who excel and so the anthropology department picked me," Hunt said. "I didn't expect it at all and I think a lot of that had to do with some of the extra curricular activities that I done while I was at the University of Oklahoma."

Hunt graduated OU with a degree in anthropology and plant biology and plans to return in fall 2016 to pursue a master's degree in archaeology.

Before Hunt pursed higher education, he first chose to serve his country.

"I started a non-traditional student. I came in a little older because I've gone through the Army," he said.

Hunt is an Army combat veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division serving in Iraq and he currently serves a reservist.

While in the Army, Hunt received: two Army Commendation Medals an Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Expert Infantryman Badge and Parachutist Badge.

arachutist Badge.
While at OU, Hunt was a two-

time delegate at the Oklahoma State Capitol to lobby state legislators for more higher education funding.

"We grow up looking at the world from typically one or two perspectives. Higher education helps an individual develop new perspectives on their surroundings and environment," he said.

He was also named Mr. Indian OU for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years.

"My platform for Mr. Indian OU was preservation of botanical knowledge and I spoke often and fondly of the Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative," Hunt said. "Our songs, dances and clothing are always mentioned in cultural preservation but rarely do you hear of recipes, crop varieties and programs to encourage our historical connection to agriculture."

His future goal after earning his master's degree is to become an MCN employee working with agriculture.

"I've served my country, I've served my family and one of the things I haven't done is serve my tribe," Hunt said.

Hunt is a Skiatook High School graduate, the son of Pamela Turner and the grandson of Mae Cook of Fame.

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MFSI receives 40k grant

MFSI/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Okmulgee based Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative is proud to announce that we've received a \$40,000 grant from First Nations Development Institute through the Seeds of Native Health program under the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI). This was made possible through the generous support of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

MFSI Executive Director Lizanne Holata and her staff have been going door to door to get interested homeowners in the Cox Addition or as some like to call it 'the homes,' which is the area between North Okmulgee Street and Oklahoma Street known as Yuchi Dr. and Creek Dr.

"We want all to take part in the garden by introducing their children and grand-children to wholesome veggies grown by their hand. We want the kids to know that there are foods available to them that are actually good for them," Holata said.

Holata outlined the benefits of these activities.

"We want to show you how easy it is to have fresh veggies that will help fuel your body, give you energy and help to maintain your body weight," Holata said. "We are all aware that diabetes is here but we can fight it by eating healthy and exercising by taking care of their gardens."

I know we have been to your door but if you haven't met us yet and want to be a part of an exciting new year call: 918-756-5915.

We are now doing individual visits to help those who want to participate. You will begin to see us at your neighbors Feb. 1, tilling and helping them plant.

Please feel free to stop by and ask questions and set up your date to till your garden. We can accommodate you if you would rather grow flowers.

Restricted land workshop set by MFSI

MFSI/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A free workshop for farmers, ranchers and veterans will be held March 11 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the College of the Muscogee Nation student center in Okmulgee. The Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will host a presentation from Ms. Janie Hipp (Chickasaw) and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Realty Department on financial management and accessing restricted land.

Ms. Hipp is director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative as well as legal counsel and teacher for restricted lands and financial literacy issues at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She has been working with OK Farm Credit officials in providing a financial training curriculum for farmers and ranchers that can be accessed online.

The first ever 'Restricted Lands Guidebook,' written by Ms. Hipp and MFSI Director Lizanne Holata will be distributed. The guidebook will provide step-by-step instructions for accessing restricted lands and detailed information on services offered by MCN Realty. It will include a list of legal aides and attorneys that specialize in legal matters pertaining to restricted lands and will be available online soon at the MFSI website: www. mvskokefood.org.

Please call MFSI to register at: 918-756-5915.

Visit the CMN website at: www.mvsktc.org.

MNN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Feb. 15 — Feb. 5

March 1 — Feb. 22

March 15 — March 7

April 1 — March 24

April 15 — April 7

First time homebuyer class set for Feb. 20

Housing Department/Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Housing Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Program has scheduled a first time homebuyer education class to help prepare Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in various aspects of buying a home including: discovering if ownership is right for you, the loan process, finding the right house, budgeting and controlling your money, environmental, contract to closing, finalizing the deal and life as a homeowner.

The class is set for 8 a.m., Feb. 20 on the second floor conference room of the Housing building at 2155 N. Wood Dr. in Okmulgee, OK.

Call Jamie Nichols, available Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. for pre-enrollment at: 918-549-2570.

WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR MARCH 5

HOLDENVILLE, Okla. — Salt Creek Methodist Church has set their annual all you can eat wild onion dinner for March 5 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Holdenville Indian Community Center. Adults cost \$10 and Children 10 and under cost \$5.

OCMA to host Mvskoke language camp

MCN MLPP/Media Release

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Mvskoke Language Preservation Program is coordinating a Mvskoke language immersion camp June 6-10 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association community center, 4111 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City. The camp will include multiple cultural activities and applicants must be enrolled Muscogee (Creek) entering the seventh-12th grades and have transportation. For applications, which are due Feb. 29, email: jmontiel@mcn-nsn.gov.

MLPP can be reached at: 918-732-7724.



WILD ONION DINNER SET FOR FEB. 6

BOWLEGS, Okla. — Kaney Chapel United Methodist Church has set a Wild Onion dinner for Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Dinners are \$10 for all you can eat, \$5 for children six and under and \$10 for carry-out.

For more information call: 580-925-2066.

CMN seeking public comments for accreditation evaluation

CMN/Media Release

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about CMN in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The college will host a visit March 7-8 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation.

Comments regarding the college are due Feb. 7 and may be submitted to: The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street Suite 7-500 Chicago, IL, 60604 or on the commission website at: www.hlcommission.org.

Comments must be in writing and address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs.

CITIZEN BUSINESS 'HAIR BY NESS' OPEN

OKMULGEE, Okla. — 'Hair by Ness' is now open for haircuts, perms, highlights, waxing and color Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 1713 College Ln., Okmulgee, OK, 74447.

For more information or an appointment call or text: 918-758-9312.

Myskoke Language Preservation Program

ETEMVRAHKE - Opposites

PVFNE — Fast
HVLVLATKE -Slow
MAHE — Tall
KOCOKNE — Short

YEKCEKO — Weak
RAKKE — Big
CUTKE — Small
HONNE — Heavy
TVHOKNE — Light

YEKCE — Strong TVHOKNE — Light H E EMKOHOO V H 0 KKENKVK 0 H M H N H O N HVOKOHONN KHN V M K R E K E E K E K E K T 0 KKEH F E E K H N K E KK 0 K C E KYTVHOKN

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION OKMULGEE DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: $\label{eq:A.D., dob 4/12/2001}$

A minor child.

CASE NO. AD-2015-14

2nd NOTICE OF HEARING APPLICATION FOR ORDER DETERMINING CHILD TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT OF NATURAL FATHER

TO: ANTHONY KARLIN LITTLEBEAR ADDRESS UNKNOWN

On December 30, 2015, an Application was filed in this Court for a determination that A.D., a minor child born out of wedlock in Oklahoma, on 4/12/2001, to Sanya Dutchy and Anthony Littlebear, be declared eligible for adoption without the consent of the Natural Father and to terminate rights of alleged father, so that the adoption of said child may occur. Said Application is set for hearing on 4th day of March 2016 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee District Courtroom, located in the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Mound Building, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, before the Honorable Judge John T. Cripps.

YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE,

OKMUIGES, OKIANOMA, DETOTE THE HONOTADIE JUDGE JOHN 1. CTIPPS.
YOU ARE, THEREFORE, NOTIFIED THAT THE COURT WILL HEAR EVIDENCE,
WHERE YOU WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PRESENT, HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE
HEARD AT SAID TIME AND PLACE, AND HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE
APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT.

YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT SAID HEARING SHALL COMMUNICATE YOUR DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE THE APPLICATION TO DETERMINE THE CHILD ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT AND SHALL COMMUNICATE A DENIAL OF YOUR INTEREST IN THE CHILD, WHICH DENIAL MAY RESULT, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU OF THIS OR ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING, IN THE GRANTING OF THE APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT CONSENT AND IN THE CHILD'S ADOPTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA. YOU ARE ALSO NOTIFIED THAT YOUR DUTY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CHILD STILL CONTINUES AFTER YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED.

Signed and dated this 11th day of January 2016.

John T. Cripps JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT